

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 were pending. By way of the present Reply, claims 1 and 3-9 are amended, claims 10-15 are added, and claim 2 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 3-15 are now pending and are submitted for favorable consideration.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 2 has been cancelled. The subject matter of claim 2 is now included in claim 1. The claims have been amended as appropriate. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) – Keller

Claims 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,260,577 (“Keller”). Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-9 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 2 has been cancelled. The allowable subject matter of claim 2 is now included in claim 1 and the claims have been amended as appropriate to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection. Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New claims 10-15 have been added. Support for new claims 10-15 can at least be found on page 3, line 7 – page 5, line 18 of the application as filed. Additionally, claims 10-15 contain subject matter similar to that of claims 4-9. Claims 10-15 ultimately depend from allowable claim 1 and are allowable therewith for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable and for their additional recitations.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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